

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 147

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Tennessee Performing Arts Center upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that the members of this General Assembly recognize those venerable organizations committed to bringing high-quality art to communities across this State, thereby enriching the lives of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such entity is the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), which celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year, marking four decades of world-class, diverse programming that has drawn audiences from across the Volunteer State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, located in downtown Nashville, TPAC manages three performance venues in the James K. Polk Cultural Center—the Andrew Jackson Hall (2,472 seats), James K. Polk Theater (1,075 seats), and Andrew Johnson Theater (256 seats)—as well as the War Memorial Auditorium (1,661 seats), a historic concert hall located across 6th Avenue from the center; and

WHEREAS, led by Martha Ingram, the effort to create TPAC began in 1972 with the formation of the TPAC Advisory Board; the following year, the newly formed TPAC Foundation began lobbying and fundraising to establish TPAC as a home for cultural exchange, a performance venue for world-class artists, and a showcase for local arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, during its first season in 1980-1981, TPAC presented 119 performances for a total attendance of 84,000; the center was strengthened by TPAC's first two resident companies: Nashville Symphony, founded in 1946, and Circle Players, a community theater founded in 1949; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its annual HCA Healthcare/TriStar Broadway at TPAC series and a wide variety of special engagements, TPAC is currently the proud performance home of

three professional resident companies—the Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, and Nashville Repertory Theatre; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Opera took residence at TPAC in 1981, after its initial performance of *Madame Butterfly* in 1980; since that time, TPAC has been home to the opera's more than 100 productions; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Repertory Theatre became a resident company in 1985 and has produced over 150 plays and musicals on all three of TPAC's stages, and the Nashville Ballet has been a resident company at TPAC since 1986; and

WHEREAS, TPAC administers one of the largest and most comprehensive arts education programs in the United States, serving students from pre-school to high school, educators, and adults; and

WHEREAS, in the last four decades, TPAC has welcomed more than fourteen million audience members and served more than 1.8 million children and adults with performances at the center, teacher resources, professional development opportunities, classroom residencies, and enrichment programs; and

WHEREAS, to ring in its fortieth year, TPAC is presenting a free, virtual 40th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, February 20th, as a "thank you" for more than four decades of generous community support for its nonprofit mission; and

WHEREAS, produced by award-winning director Matt Logan and filmed by MA2LA at TPAC, the celebration is hosted by actress Tamiko Robinson Steele and features performances from the Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, and Nashville Repertory Theatre, along with special guest appearances by Tony Award-nominee Susan Egan, actress and recording artist Diana DeGarmo, and Spotlight Award-winner Hatty King and a message from Florida Georgia Line; and

WHEREAS, access to the arts through live performance and learning can have a life-changing effect on individuals of all ages, and the presence of a vibrant arts and cultural scene is fundamental to the community's health and vitality; and

WHEREAS, for forty years, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center has been a cultural anchor and a bastion of some of the best performing arts programming in the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor this premier institution on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize the Tennessee Performing Arts Center upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, extending our sincere gratitude to all the individuals, both past and present, who have contributed to its enduring legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.